

THE Empire

Summer 2017



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



*Forming men...creating leaders...
breaking ground*



THE RCHS MISSION



Photo: Patrick Sweeney '15

Founded by Thomas E. Cahill in 1890 as the first free diocesan Catholic high school for boys in the nation, Roman Catholic continues its tradition of excellence as it strives to offer a comprehensive academic curriculum within a disciplined Catholic environment. Enriched by its cultural, racial, and religious diversity, Roman Catholic provides a community where each young man can learn to appreciate and respect the uniqueness of others, while becoming a man of personal integrity. Roman Catholic High School strives to bring the Gospel values of Jesus Christ to its students, while forming a Catholic community which embodies the Christian spirit of service to all.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

A few Sundays ago, I wore my Roman Alumni golf shirt to church, and after Mass, I was approached by a gentleman who introduced himself as being a member of the class of 1951. The woman exiting in back of me, volunteered "That school has great Alumni."

As I was walking to my car, I thought about how often my Roman apparel is recognized and becomes a vehicle of introduction and conversation. I've been stopped at an out-of-the-way café in Crystal River, Florida, been chased down by a prospective student's mother on Ocean City's Boardwalk, and was interviewed by various individuals waiting for their Christmas Eve fish orders in Bridgeport, PA.

So that led me to reflect on the question of what's the magnetism of Roman Catholic High School? I think it can be traced back to the generosity of Thomas and Sophia Cahill. As you may know, the Cahill's were childless, and Thomas willed his fortune to the construction of a school for the Catholic education of young men from the Philadelphia area. Out of respect for the Cahills, students are considered "Sons of Cahill," and graduates consider each other "Brothers for Life." Traditionally, Roman guys may disagree with each other, but when pressed, Roman guys take care of Roman guys.

I think Philadelphians identify with and respect that relationship. It was well-publicized in 1985 when the Alumni and its friends stepped up with financial support and saved the school from closing. Roman was viewed as the underdog and became a true-life "Rocky" story. The Alumni and their friends have maintained that obligation and have looked out for our younger brothers for the past 32 years by providing financial support in the form of scholarships and capital improvements.

Like Rocky, Roman has earned its right to be considered an elite player. Roman students have won honors in National Latin Exams, mock trial, choral, and music competitions. Roman graduates are accepted with scholarships into the finest universities and military academies. On May 30, 2017, Roman broke ground on its new state-of-the-art arts center which will include band rooms, a computer-aided design lab, a digital photography studio, a piano lab, a small theater, and other facilities to support art programs.

Remember, if you, as a loyal alum do not support Roman, who will?

Thank you, in advance, for your financial and spiritual support.

Best Regards,

Tom Johnston '72
President

RCHS Alumni Association
Johnstontf@comcast.net



Dear Alums and Benefactors of Roman,

With the Class of 2017 now joining the ranks of Alumni, we are extremely proud of their accomplishments: the number of championships won, the recognitions earned, and the prestigious college acceptances. But what is most exemplary is their generosity. As a parting gift, the Class of 2017 graduates pledged over \$5,000 to our Annual Giving Campaign. Knowing that many benefactors helped them during their time at Roman, they now wish to help the next generation of Cahillites by giving back. What a great legacy!

In November of 2015, a mere year and a half ago, Roman Catholic announced the Vision of Promise – a four-phase, multi-year plan to provide our students with new and updated facilities to increase academic rigor, to develop higher level thinking skills, and to better prepare our men to take their place in the world. The Vision of Promise aims to place Roman Catholic in the very forefront of an extremely challenging and demanding 21st century educational environment.

This Spring, we held a formal groundbreaking for Phase 1 of our Vision of Promise – The Howard Center for the Arts. Construction should take approximately 11-12 months. The namesakes, Barry and Elayne Howard, have been ardent benefactors for many, many years. While Barry may not have graduated from Roman, his personal and financial support is in the tradition of our founder, Thomas Cahill, himself. For the 25 years Barry has been a member of the Board of Directors, he has demonstrated unparalleled commitment, passion, and loyalty. Generations of Cahillites have and will continue to benefit from his philanthropic support.

We now begin raising the funds for Phase 2, our new STEM Center. This phase is estimated to cost around \$8 million. Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) will distinguish excellent schools from mediocre ones. For Roman, excellence is the only option! Please consider a sacrificial gift to help our students compete against the best.

Sincerely,

Reverend Joseph W. Bongard '77
President/Rector

Roman Catholic High School
jbongard@romancatholichs.com

NEWS AROUND ROMAN

SADD makes Merry

The Advent and Christmas season is a time for service and giving. Roman gave back in a major way with the annual Christmas party for underprivileged families organized by our Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group. Every homeroom raised money and donated gifts for the children who attended the party.



The Roman Community gather in the courtyard before the annual SADD Christmas Party.

The “giving-back” continued into the cold winter months when faculty member, Jim Brennan '97 rallied all the extracurricular groups to donate coats and winter clothing for children. This clothing drive was properly titled “Cahillites for Kids.” The movement was a great success, as over a two-week time span Roman provided 165 warm jackets, 44 scarves, 80 winter hats, and 61 pairs of gloves to those who most needed them.

Cahillites Reclaim The Hocker Cup



Roman's Ethel Mae Hocker Scholars pose with the Hocker family after winning The Hocker Cup.

The Ethel Mae Hocker Foundation generously provides 10 scholarships annually to Roman students. The foundation hosted its 11th annual dinner for the Hocker Scholars in early May. Every year at the dinner, the Hocker Cup is presented to the high school that has the highest overall GPA. Roman had previously won in 2012, 2013 and 2014 but then went on a short drought but this year...Roman reclaimed the Hocker Cup!

RCHS is represented in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Members of Junior AOH Patrick Kerr Division marched in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Every year members act as the Archbishop's Honor Guard for the Mass at St. Patrick's Church and carry the banners throughout the Parade for VIPs, the Ring of Honor, and many more.



Shane Flynn '17 and Kevin Hawthorne '19 carry the “theme” banner for the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade. RCHS AOH members carry all of the banners for the parade association.



Jr. AOH members gather under the statue of St. Patrick at St. Patrick's Church following the annual Mass.

Catholic Schools Week

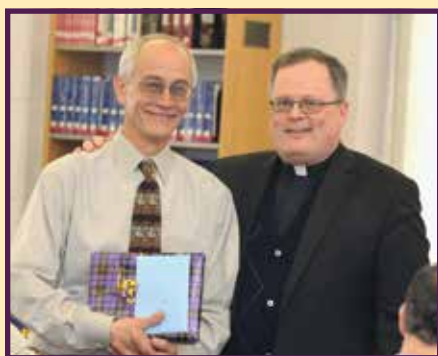
The entire Roman school community always looks forward to Catholic Schools Week as we celebrate our Catholic identity and have tons of fun with various events.

A recap of the week included:

- A scavenger hunt took place all over the hallowed halls of Catholic High.
- A hilarious version of Roman Family Feud including students and faculty hosted by Mr. Conroy '91 who gave Steve Harvey a run for his money!
- Annual events continued: International Cultures Night, Faculty vs. Senior Volleyball Game, Student Appreciation Day, Faculty Appreciation Day and much more!
- The week always concludes with the Faculty and Staff Luncheon. This year Roman honored Father Bongard '77, Principal Patricia Sticco, and science teacher Rick Dietz for their 25 years of teaching and service in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



Father Bongard '77 gives out soft pretzels on "Student Appreciation Day."



Mr. Dietz is honored for 25 years of teaching in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



Jack Duska '17 and his fellow Cahillites enjoy a good laugh during Roman's Family Feud.



Mr. Conroy '91 charismatically hosts Roman's own Family Feud game between Mr. Shanahan and Mr. Buck '98.



Members of the Class of 2017 and faculty after the annual Faculty vs. Senior Volleyball game.

NEWS AROUND ROMAN



Mr. Pensabene and his Latin classes

Excellence on National Latin Exam Continues

Roman is proud that every student who took the National Latin Exam received an award. Congratulations to our student scholars and teacher Mr. Pensabene.

Roman Catholic High School 2017 National Latin Exam Statistics:

- Earned an Award: 100%
- National Average on the Test: 28 out of 40 correct
- Roman's Average on the Test: 36.5 out of 40 correct
- Percentage of Students Who Earned Summa Cum Laude (Gold Medal): 75%
- Percentage of Students Who Earned Maxima Cum Laude (Silver Medal): 20%
- Percentage of Students Who Earned Magna Cum Laude: 5%



Roman's Band Motivates Broad Street Runners

On Sunday, May 7th, the annual Broad Street Run took place in Philadelphia. The largest 10 mile run in the United States has many small traditions including Roman's band playing music on the corner of Broad & Vine while the multitude of runners speed by Catholic High.

Pro-Life Club Strengthens Catholic Identity

The Pro-Life Club continues to be an active student group under faculty moderator Mr. Matt Hummel. Over fifty Roman students traveled to Washington D.C. to proudly walk in the annual March for Life. The officers of the Pro-Life club also met with the Ethicists at the National Catholic Bioethics Center for a discussion on key current issues and career and educational choices.



Roman students at the annual "March for Life" in Washington D.C.



Pro-Life Club with National Bioethics officials



Roman Establishes Annual “Day Of Giving”

On Tuesday, May 23rd, in conjunction with the Cahill Club Dinner, Roman held its first ever annual “Day of Giving.” The campaign was focused on alums, students, and friends of Roman donating online and then promoting via social media. The day was a great success resulting in over 150 donations which totaled an amount of \$10,500. This generosity from our community will truly impact Roman. You can donate to Roman anytime by visiting RomanCatholicHS.com/donate.

Spirit Day Soars on the Parkway

On Wednesday, May 17th, Roman celebrated Spirit Day! The entire student body traveled to River Field for fun, sports, games, and other activities. The day was an absolute blast.



Hordes of Cahillites march to River Field on Spirit Day.



From Broad and Vine to West Point

In the last edition of “The Empire,” we were proud to announce that senior Matt Grueninger '17 was accepted and appointed to the United States Naval Academy. Now in this edition, we are again proud to announce that senior Cary Boyd '17 has been accepted and appointed to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.



Anthony Straface '19 plays quarterback for flag football on Spirit Day.



Stephen Clugston '19 chases down the soccer ball from Shawn Rostucher '20.



Members of the Class of 2017 having fun on Spirit Day.

Special Commemoration to Honor the Roman Alumni of World War I

By Chris Gibbons '79

On April 6, 2017, Roman held a special commemoration at the school to mark the 100 year anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. On that date in 1917, the boys from Roman answered our nation's call. Incredibly, one Roman alumnus, Edward J. Kelley from the Class of 1908, had already given his life by this date as nearly 7 months prior he was killed during the Battle of Verdun while volunteering to help the French Army. Another Roman alumnus, Dr. John F. McCloskey – Class of 1896, who fought in the Spanish American War in 1898, had already volunteered to fight for France in 1915 and then served in the U.S. Army when war was declared. By the end of the war in 1918, approximately 1,500 Roman alumni had served in the Armed Forces, with nearly 150 serving as officers. Thirty two, and possibly more, gave their lives. Many Cahillites also distinguished themselves in battle: Edward Kelly was awarded the French Croix de Guerre medal for bravery. Vincent Diodati from the Class of 1906 was awarded the British Military Cross for bravery, and Joseph Wolfe from the Class of 1899 was awarded two Silver Stars, as well as the Distinguished Service Medal for bravery. Many of our alumni who fought in The Great War would go on to distinguished careers, such as Vincent Carroll, who became the first President Judge of Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas, and James McGranery, who would serve as a Congressman and as U.S. Attorney General under Harry Truman. McCloskey became a prominent Philadelphia physician, was co-founder of Chestnut Hill Hospital, and an elementary school is named after him in Mt. Airy.

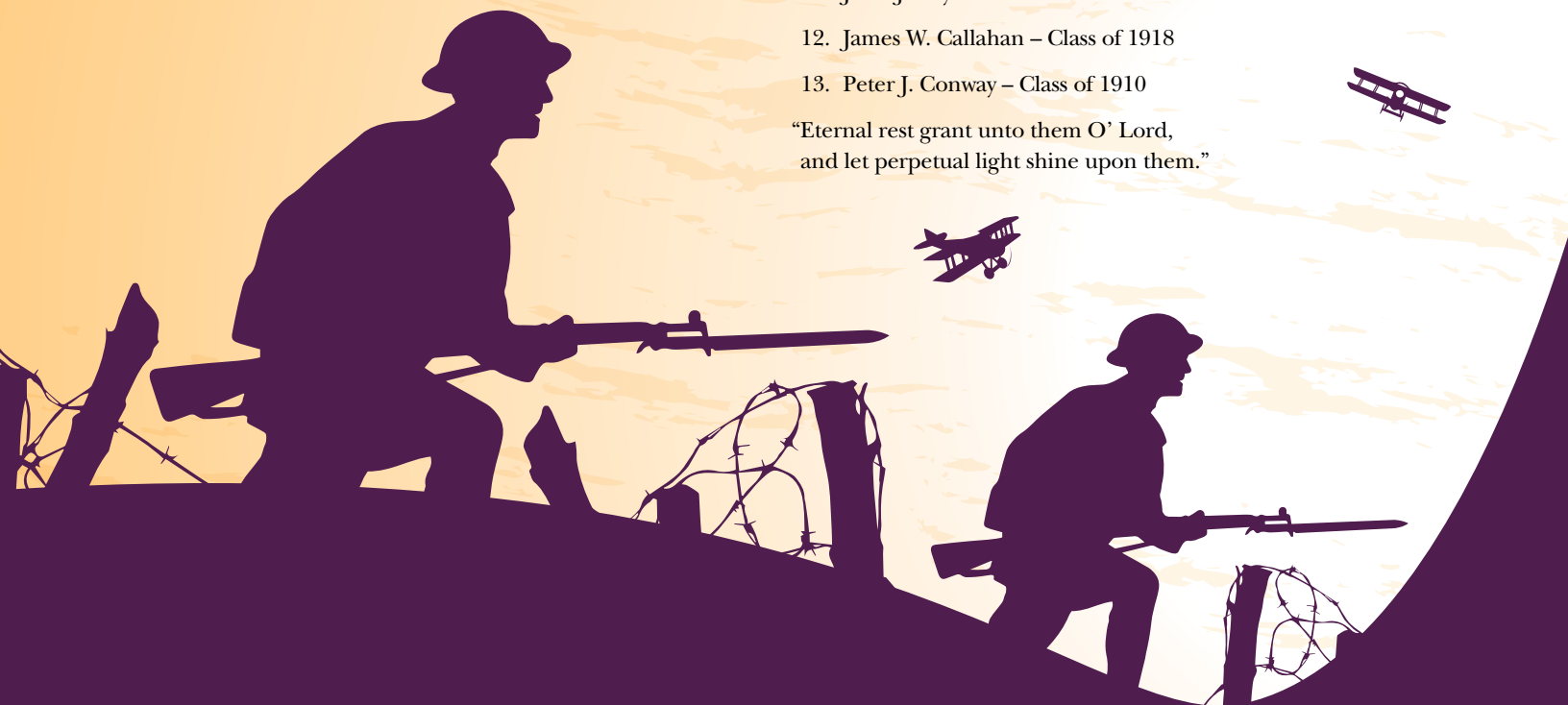
These are just a few of our many fellow alumni who fought in one of the most devastating wars the world has ever seen, and on April 6th, we honored them all with a special remembrance of the 32 who gave their lives. Roman is determined to find the names of all 32 and add them to our World War I Memorial plaque. To the world they may have just been soldiers, but to the Roman family, they are our brothers, and we will not cease in our search until we find them all.

Father Bongard concluded the commemoration by blessing the World War I plaque, and everyone was asked to pray for the 13 alums that have been found thus far:

1. Edward J. Kelley – Class of 1908
2. Raymond J. Hummel – Class of 1911
3. Louis R. McGinnis – Class of 1913
4. Richard J. Currie – Class of 1911
5. James F. Feely – Class of 1906
6. John A. Gerngross – Class of 1909
7. Francis T. Schommer – Class of 1914
8. Walter J. Wiegand – Class of 1915
9. Walter J. Spearing – Class of 1909
10. Joseph F. Murray – Class of 1908
11. John J. Boyle – Class of 1914
12. James W. Callahan – Class of 1918
13. Peter J. Conway – Class of 1910



"Eternal rest grant unto them O' Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them."





Father Bongard '77 blesses the WWI Memorial Plaque to conclude the ceremony.



Faculty member, Mr. Durkin, reads President Wilson's Declaration of War from 100 years ago.



Roman students, (L-R) Leroy Brown '17, Kaelon Soto '18, and Jamil Gaffud '17 display the memorial plaques of select Roman alumni who fought in WWI.



Chris Gibbons '79 is interviewed by KYW on his findings in the search for the "Lost Boys" of WWI.



World War I logo designed by Gene Burns '81



"Lost Boys" of World War I Project Update

By Chris Gibbons '79

Another Roman alum has been found in the search for the names of Cahillites who gave their lives during World War I:

- **Peter J. Conway**, Private, from the Class of 1910 – killed October 9, 1918 during the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne

That brings the total number of names found thus far to 13, out of a total of 32 from Roman who died during The Great War (as stated in the Philadelphia newspapers from that era). Also, newspaper articles from that time period state that the following men who gave their lives were Roman alums, but we cannot find any confirming information in Roman's student records:

- **Corporal Joseph Douglas Waples** (St. Francis Xavier parish)
- **Lieutenant Michael R. Leonard** (Cathedral parish)
- **Sergeant Bernard F. Breen** (St. Gregory parish)
- **Lieutenant Daniel P. Lafferty** (St. John the Evangelist parish)

If anyone has any information that could lead to confirming that these men did attend Roman, please contact Chris Gibbons '79 at gibbonscg@aol.com.

Congratulations Class of 2017!

On Friday, June 9, 2017, Roman Catholic High School held the 124th Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises for the graduating Class of 2017. Both the Mass and ceremony took place at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul. Roman's Class of 2017 is made up of 225 students, who were accepted to 174 different colleges and universities both locally and nationally, including Villanova, University of Pennsylvania and University of Chicago. Eleven students will be serving our country in the military. One student will be attending the United States Naval Academy, and another will attend United States Military Academy at West Point. The Class of 2017 was awarded a total of more than \$24 million in the form of various scholarships and grants.

The Roman tradition of academic excellence was on full display with the Class of 2017. We are very proud and excited to see our students continue their academic pursuits and further develop their talents. Congratulations and best of luck to the Class of 2017! Do us proud!

A special part of the ceremonies this year was the awarding of three honorary diplomas to World War II veterans: Francis Foster, Charles Lawless, and Harry Lampart. Foster and Lawless, both 90 years old, would have graduated from Catholic High in 1945. Both left Roman to enter the military service. Foster entered the US Coast Guard, and Lawless the US Army. Both men were wearing their old Roman sweaters in the Sanctuary as they graciously accepted the honorary diploma. Harry Lampart, now 99 years old, would have graduated from Northeast Catholic High School in 1936 but due to the worsening national depression, left school and took employment to help his family financially. He was later drafted into the US Air Force. With the closure of North in 2010, the Falcons of North have become the adopted Cahillites of RCHS. Mr. Lampart received his honorary diploma together with his great-grandson, Michael Brown, '17.

2017 Loyalty Award Winners

Roman Catholic High School and the Alumni Association present annually the Loyalty Award at the Commencement Exercises to individuals who exemplify the spirit of Thomas E. Cahill. Congratulations to this year's recipients!



From left to right: Joann Doherty (longtime Mothers' Club President), Kevin Gallagher (longtime Fathers' Club President), William Lyons (Faculty member since 1988), Flavia Mangan-Colgan (benefactor and mentor to students), Steven Patton '08 (active alum and head coach of Mock Trial Program), and Rodney Wilson (recently retired maintenance worker at Roman).



Members of the Class of 2017 applaud the Loyalty Award recipients.



Frank Foster (left) and Charles Lawless (right) embrace as they receive their honorary diplomas from RCHS. The two would have graduated together in 1945 if they had not joined the service.



Nicholas Bishop '17 delivers the Valedictory address to his fellow Cahillites. Nicholas will attend the University of Pennsylvania next year.



Devin Trahan '17, attending Gwynedd Mercy University next year, shakes hands with Christopher Mominey, Secretary for Catholic Education, after receiving his diploma.

Congratulations to the Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2017!



These individuals were inducted on Friday, April 28th, 2017 at the annual SHOF Dinner held at the FOP Lodge #5 in Northeast Philadelphia.

Frank Dudley '25
(Posthumously)
Basketball & Baseball

Jim Higgins '57
Football & Basketball

Bob Wagner '63
Football & Football Coach

John Citrone '75
Football

Joe Logue '83
Football

AJ Thomson '94
Cross Country, Track,
Soccer & Tennis

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SHOF
SPORTS HALL OF FAME
Est. 1990

Rocco Trivarelli '98
Football

Sean Dugan '01
Soccer

Bruce Merlino '06
Wrestling

Congratulations to the 2017 Cahill Club Award Recipients!



They were honored on Tuesday, May 23rd, at the annual Cahill Club Dinner held at the Flouertown Country Club.

2017 Cahill Club Honorees:

Thomas E. Cahill Award
Aurelius (Tony) Cousar '90

Distinguished Alumni Award
Dave Lally '05

James McSherry '40
Award for Service
Martin Dziura '77

Teacher of the Year
John Corrigan

Student of the Year
Joseph Doherty '17



Aurelius (Tony) Cousar '90 is presented the Thomas E. Cahill Award from Steven Patton '08, President of the Cahill Club



The Class of 1997 enjoyed their 20-year reunion on Saturday, April 29th.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Day at the Bay
August 5, 2017

Roman Run
October 8, 2017

George Boyle Scholarship Golf Outing
October 14, 2017

Communion Breakfast & Homecoming
November 26, 2017



Want to plan your class reunion?

Contact: Lisa Mertz,
Coordinator of Special Events & Alumni Relations,
LMertz@RomanCatholicHS.com • 215-627-5487 Ext. 315



Roman Catholic High School breaks ground for... The Howard Center for the Arts

On Tuesday, May 30, 2017, Roman Catholic High School celebrated the ground breaking of *The Howard Center for the Arts*. The Center is named after Barry & Elayne Howard. The Howards have been longtime supporters of the students of Roman, and Barry has served as a dedicated member of Roman's Board of Directors since its inception over 25 years ago. Construction of the 40,000 square foot facility is fully-funded and will commence this summer with a ribbon-cutting planned for Spring of 2018.

The Howard Center for the Arts is the realization of Phase One of Roman Catholic High School's *Vision of Promise* master plan – a four-phased, \$25 million, transformational initiative to provide an innovative, 21st Century education for Roman's students. Subsequent phases of the *Vision of Promise* plan will include:

- A Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) building with modern lab facilities (Phase II);
- A new field house and track to accommodate the school's celebrated athletic programs (Phase III);
- The repurposing of the current gymnasium to include an auditorium and chapel as well as updated space for the College Careers and Counseling Center, Academic Affairs, Admissions and Student Affairs offices (Phase IV)

The new, 21st Century campus will be anchored around the original historic school building, which has been in continuous use since 1890.

Located just off the Avenue of the Arts, North, *The Howard Center* will provide space for Roman's Fine and Performing Arts programs. The Center will host rehearsal space for music and choral students, along with private, individual lesson rooms. Included in the Center are dedicated choral and ceramic studios, along with classroom space for drama and mixed media. Space is also allotted for a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) lab and a Digital Photography classroom. The present music program will be enhanced with the addition of a piano lab along with



Rendering of the main corridor of The Howard Center for the Arts.



Band Room



Black Box Theater



Piano Lab



Ceramics Classroom



Digital Lab



Barry & Elyane Howard pose in front of the rendering of "The Howard Center for the Arts."



Barry Howard graciously addresses the crowd and states that Roman is a true urban educational success story

appropriate storage space for instruments, music, and art supplies as well as offices for instructors. To provide students with the latest supports for developing their artistic abilities, advanced technologies will be integrated throughout the building.

A major component of the design of this new space is the creation of a small Black Box Theater. All of the performing arts, music, choral, and drama programs will be able to practice, perform, and exhibit their artistic works in this intimate setting. When completed, this space will be made available to local Philadelphia arts groups for small dramatic and musical productions.

The ground breaking ceremony was a truly great day for Catholic High. The unfinished facility was transformed into an intimate staging area where Roman students' artwork was on display while the RCHS band & chorus both performed beautifully. In addition to student performances, Father Bongard '77, Tom Johnston '72, Dan DiLella '69, and Tom Leonard '64 all offered words in honor of Barry & Elayne Howard and highlighted the future of Roman Catholic's educational offerings. Barry Howard also spoke about how honored he was to have the center established in his name and humbly thanked other key contributors for all they do for Roman. The event was a true turning point for the "Vision of Promise" campaign and the entire Roman Catholic High School community.

Kings of the Courtroom: Mock Trial Program's Dominant Run Continues

By Christian Dellavella '17, Team Captain

Roman's Mock Trial Program took its dominance over the State of Pennsylvania to new levels in the 2016-2017 season. In addition to adding a fifth team and becoming the largest mock trial program in the state, the teams accomplished more than they ever had before.

The season started in September of 2016 with a trip to San Francisco for the Empire Invitational Tournament. Widely regarded as the "world championship of mock trial," it is the most prestigious invitational tournament held in the United States, hosting twenty-two teams from eleven different states and various countries around the world. This time around, Roman faced teams from South Korea, Nevada, Ohio, and California. Roman swept each of the first four rounds, reaching the global championship as the number one seed with a 10-2 record. Unfortunately, they were defeated by a slim margin. However, this only fueled their desire for success during the college tournament season.

In January of 2017, five Roman mock trial teams traveled to the University of Pittsburgh for its thirteenth annual high school mock trial tournament. This tournament hosts over 40 teams from across the state. Roman asserted its dominance right away, winning nine individual awards as the A team finished in first place, and the B team finished in second. Christian Dellavella '17, Francis McLaverty '17, Grant May '17, and Joshua Picciotti '18 earned best attorney awards, and Joseph Doherty '17, Amondo Clayton '17, Nolan Debes '17, Justin Vespasiani '18, and Anthony Pantalone '19 earned best witness awards.

The next weekend, La Salle University hosted its annual Blue and Gold high



Roman Mock Trial's A Team after winning a fourth consecutive City Championship John Pensabene (Coach, Faculty Member), Justin Vespasiani '18 (South Philadelphia), Nicholas Hamilton '19 (Huntingdon Valley), Paul Keene '17 (Mt. Airy), Joseph Doherty '17 (Fox Chase), Christian Dellavella '17 (Torresdale), Ryan Frank '20 (Mayfair), Joseph Pizzo '17 (Bensalem), Joshua Picciotti '18 (South Philadelphia), Steven Patton '08

school mock trial invitational tournament. This tournament hosts over 20 of the best teams in the city of Philadelphia. Roman entered four teams, picking up a perfect attorney award from Christian Dellavella '17 and a best witness award from Evan Meadows '18. Roman dominated the competition again, but this time around, the B team finished in first while the A team placed second.

The last college tournament was the Benjamin Franklin Invitational hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. Roman entered five teams. Despite being another elite tournament, hosting over 40 of the best teams around the state, Roman again took control. Grant May '17, Joshua Picciotti '18, and Sean Hamilton '20 earned best attorney awards, while Glen Bittenbender '18 earned a best witness award. The A team finished in first place while the C team finished in fifth. Roman became the first school in state history to win all three major college tournaments in the same season.

Next up was the city competition. The competition hosted every mock trial team in Philadelphia. Four Roman teams were entered, and each of them advanced to the sweet sixteen round. This marked the second year in a row in which Roman comprised 25% of the sweet sixteen. The A, B, and C teams

advanced to the elite eight, and both the A and B teams advanced to the final four. In an incredibly packed courtroom, the A and B teams faced off, with the winner earning a spot in the city championship. By a close decision, the A team advanced for the fourth year in a row. They battled Germantown Friends in a rematch of last year's final round. By a margin of 8-1, Roman clinched a four-peat of the city championship. Christian Dellavella '17 won the best attorney award, while Joseph Doherty '17 won the best witness award.

After winning the city competition, the team proceeded to Harrisburg to compete in the state competition. Fourteen teams from 10 different regions around the state competed to earn a trip to Connecticut to participate in nationals. After winning their first four rounds, Roman headed to the state championship. The round was recorded and aired on PCNTV. Unfortunately, Roman fell short in one of the closest decisions in state history. After such a fantastic season, the program is ready to pick up right where it left off with the help of head coach Steven Patton '08, John Pensabene, John Prendergast '08, Patrick Prendergast '13, Steven Johnson '10, Nicholas Guth '13, George Zindel '14, Andrew DiCicco '14 and Vincent Capitolo '16.



ROMAN ATHLETICS

Roman Recap: 2016-2017 Athletics

By Daniel DiBerardinis '05

In my first year as full-time Athletic Director (third year overall) at Roman Catholic High School, the athletic department continued to grow and develop. This year had a total of 535 student athletes spread out over our 17 varsity sports and 35 overall teams when including JV and freshman squads. This school year we added Fall and Spring Intramural basketball seasons. Next year, we plan to grow the intramural program further by adding ultimate Frisbee and soccer.

On behalf of the Roman Catholic High School Athletic Department, I welcome all current and past students to come back and support our teams. Athletics are an excellent way to grow emotionally as an individual. As a graduate of Catholic High, I know that athletics played a major role in helping prepare me for college and more importantly, life. Because of sports, the lessons of my coaches, and the games I played, I developed skills that help me to this day.



Joseph Tarducci '18 kicks off during the PCL Championship game. The soccer team advanced to a third straight PCL Title game this season.

Fall Recap

Roman athletics had a tremendous Fall campaign. Our young football team bounced back from a down year and was extremely competitive against some of the best teams in the PCL. Coach Hoban and the golf team made it to the Catholic league final for the 4th consecutive year, and Alex Durelli '17 went on to become the school's first ever individual Philadelphia Catholic League Champion. Cross Country was led by Sean Brown '17 to finish 3rd overall in the PCL and continued his streak as he was named first team All Catholic for the 3rd consecutive season.

The soccer program continued its historic run as they went to their 3rd consecutive PCL final. They fell in a heartbreaker to La Salle, 2-1 but played extremely hard until the final whistle. The soccer program was successful on three levels and expects to be a contender for years to come.



Sean Brown '17 helped lead the cross country team to another great season. Brown will continue his education and athletic career at Lehigh University.



The "Fab Five" poses with the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship. From left to right: Andrew Masculli '17, Cole Wittman '18, Timmy Dang '18, Justin Convery '17, Ryan Guth '19

Winter Recap

Bowling ended the drought! After 56 years, the Bowling team won the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship. The program is always competitive and in contention but could not seem to get over the hump. This year's team changed that, under the senior leadership of leadoff

(continued on page 16)



ROMAN ATHLETICS

Andrew Masculli '17 and anchor Justin Convery '17. The team finally celebrated with the plaque. The team also had great contributions from Cole Wittman '18 and Timmy Dang '18, and sophomore and league MVP Ryan Guth '19.



Under rookie Head Coach, Matt Griffin, Roman won the District 12 6A Championship, the program's fifth consecutive City Title.



Michael Leyland '18 (left, 220 lbs) and Matt Galasso '17 (right, 285 lbs) both placed fourth in the AAA Northeast Regional Tournament to qualify for the State Tournament in Hershey. They are the first state qualifiers in Roman wrestling history.

The wrestling program ventured to new heights! This wrestling season showed the growth the program has made over the years. For the first time in over 10 years, we advanced to the PCL semifinals after a huge win over powerhouse La Salle. The individual post season was also successful as Matthew Grueninger was both individual PCL Champion (first since 2008) and District 12 Champion (first since 2012) at 145 lbs to become the first Roman wrestler to win both of those tournaments in the same season. School and program history continued to be made when both Mike Leyland '18 and Matt Galasso '17 both qualified for the State Tournament in Hershey, an incredible accomplishment in the highly competitive wrestling state of Pennsylvania. It was truly a season to remember for the Cahillites of the mat.

After two of the most heralded seasons in program history, Coach Chris McNesby '95 stepped down to spend more time with family. The coaching change left the young and inexperienced team under the direction of new basketball head coach Matt Griffin. The young Cahillites stormed out the gates to an 8-1 non-league record, winning the McBride Classic and finishing 2nd in the Rotary Round Ball Classic in South Carolina. The first-year head coach was not fazed by the pressure of taking over the historic RCHS basketball program. Preaching attitude, hard work, and determination, the team went on to win the District 12 6A title and finished with a 21-6 mark overall.



Ollie Fisher '19 passes the baton to Karim Dittmar '19 as part of one of the fastest 4X100 teams in the State.

Spring Recap

Outdoor track and field had a great overall season. The 4X100 team lead by all underclassmen finished with the best time in the PCL and 3rd overall in the entire state. The team comprised of Malik Griffin '20, Malachi Harris '20, Ollie Fischer '19, and Kamir Dittmar '19. The future is bright for the young program, and continued success will sure follow.

Crew continued its run as one of the best programs in the Delaware Valley. At the PCL championships, the team was in contention going into the final race. Unfortunately, they fell a little short and finished a respectful 3rd overall. That solid finish gave them momentum going into the Stotesbury National Regatta where the varsity quad finished 4th overall. Continuing a theme with many of our sports teams this year, the crew program has a lot of youth in the ranks and is planning on another PCL plaque push next season.

Aside from Crew and Outdoor Track & Field, Roman had four teams make the playoffs: Baseball, Rugby, Tennis, and Volleyball.

Congratulations to all our sports teams on another successful year representing the Purple & Gold.



Roman's 2017 Varsity Quad: Justin Frye '17, Louis Iacovelli '18, Kristjan Perry '17, and John Meehan '17



Marquise Wood '18 swings to drive in a run.

Roman Student-Athletes sign their way to collegiate careers

Many of Roman's senior student athletes are continuing their athletic careers on the collegiate level. In what has become a heart-warming and humbling trend, Roman athletes are able to sign their letters of intent in public with family, friends, teammates, and coaches present.

Here is a list of those students who signed:

Leroy Brown

Ursinus College (Wrestling)

Sean Brown

Lehigh University (Cross Country, Track)

Anthony Butler

Morgan State University (Football)

Arthur Dolan

Holy Family University (Soccer)

Dahmeer Duvernay

East Stroudsburg University (Football)

Matt Flanagan

Holy Family University (Soccer)

Santino Nave

Lock Haven University (Baseball)

Kristjan Perry

La Salle University (Crew)

Cy Saunders

La Salle University (Crew)

Alex Smith

Kutztown University (Football)

Kevin Tryon

La Salle University (Crew)

Aidan Welch

Millersville University (Baseball)

Other student senior athletes who will continue their athletic careers on a collegiate level:

Joseph Bristow

Widener University (Football)

Da'Kuan Davis

Arcadia University (Basketball)

Matthew Galasso

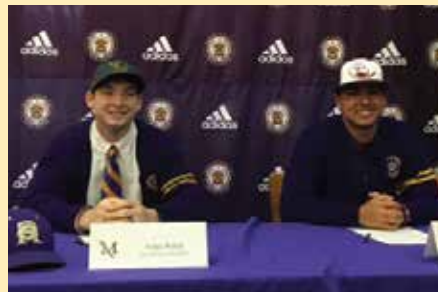
Lycoming College (Football, Wrestling)

Christopher Kuhar

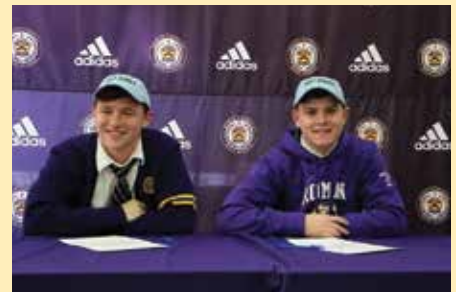
La Salle University (Basketball)

John Paul Sanders

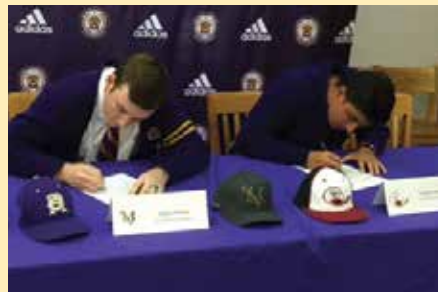
Centenary University (Basketball)



Pitchers Aidan Welch '17 & Santino Nave '17 sign their letters to play collegiate baseball



Matt Flanagan '17 & Artie Dolan '17 sign their letters to play collegiate soccer for Holy Family University



Coach Brian Conroy '91 and Coach James Murphy with (left to right) Dahmeer Duvernay '17, Anthony Butler '17, Alex Smith '17

ROMAN IN THE NEWS

It was another successful year for Roman Catholic High School, and with success comes good press. We want to thank the various publications and neighborhood papers (South Philly Review, The Star, Northeast Times, etc.) for their wonderful coverage of Roman and our students.

You can keep up with news about Roman on our website www.RomanCatholicHS.com where we have a section entitled "Roman in the News."



The Archdiocese of Philadelphia had a kick off celebration to the 2016-2017 academic year, and our Roman boys made their presence felt with their enthusiasm and energy, evident by this photo that was featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer this past Fall.

Vision of Promise

After the ceremonial groundbreaking of the "Howard Center for the Arts," Roman's "Vision of Promise" campaign was heavily covered by the Philadelphia community. The Philadelphia Business Journal, Philadelphia Magazine, CityBizList.com, and Catholic Philly all reviewed the details of the four-phased expansion and reinvestment into Catholic High.

Roman Athletics

Roman athletics is a constant subject in the Philadelphia news cycle. We saw Coach Griffin's rookie year as head coach heavily covered by the Philadelphia Inquirer, neighborhood papers, City of Basketball Love, and Philly Sports Digest. Freshman basketball player, Lynn Greer III '20, had television coverage on Comcast Sports Net covering his family legacy in the sport of basketball as both his Father, Lynn Greer II, and Grandfather, Lynn Greer I, had prolific careers on the hardwood.



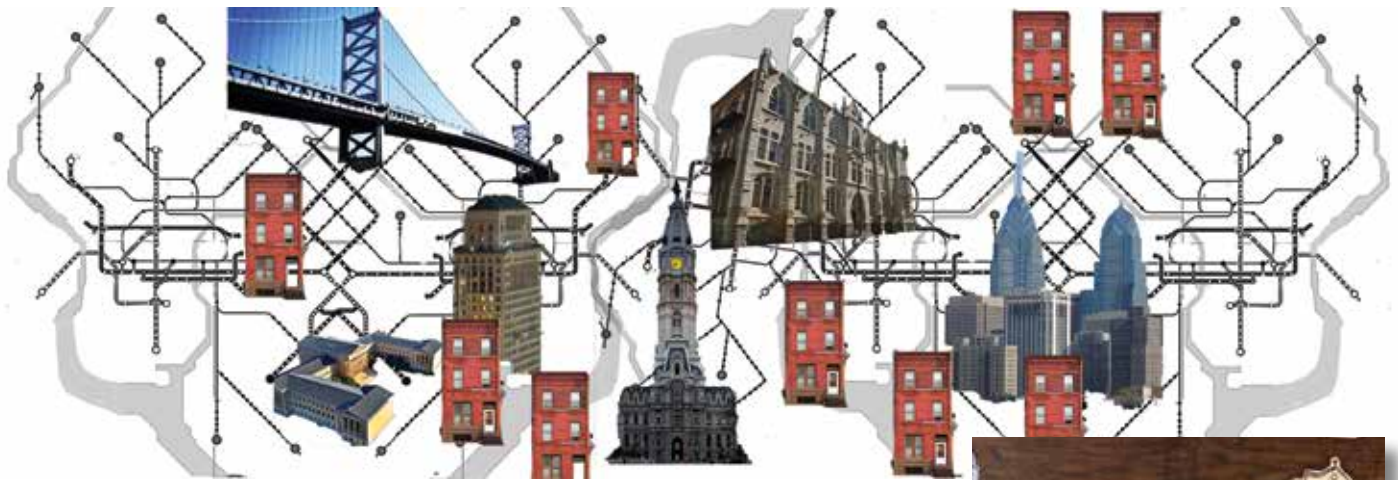
Lynn Greer III '20 had a strong freshman season for Roman basketball. Go to Roman's website to view a story that Comcast Sport Net produced on Lynn and his families' legacy in the sport of basketball.



Powerhouse Mock Trial Team Graces the Front Page

As the Mock Trial Team captured their fourth consecutive City Championship, Broad Street Media wrote a fantastic piece on the program. Given that the team has students from various areas in the Delaware Valley, including both Northeast and South Philadelphia, the article was published in both the Northeast Times and South Philly Review. It even graced the cover of South Philly Review! We were so proud and happy for our Mock Trial Team as their hard work was properly recognized.

Our wrestling program had a historic season which garnered coverage by neighborhood papers. Matt Grueninger's '17 rise from going nearly winless his freshman year to being captain of the team senior year was featured by the Northeast Times. Matt Galasso '17, a Port Richmond native, made school history by becoming Roman wrestling's first state qualifier; his journey was chronicled by local paper "The Star." Local papers also covered our many athletic signings which are covered on page 17 of this edition.



Roman earns grant from Philadelphia Museum of Art's Futures Program

Appropriately, in the same year that we break ground for the "Howard Center for the Arts," we are proud to showcase the artwork of students who participated in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Art Futures Program. Roman has been selected for the program funded by the Delphi Project Foundation and Patriarch Foundation for the past six years. This year, RCHS earned the Fernand Léger Award for excellence in abstraction, utilizing line, shape, and color to represent travel and movement across Philadelphia. The exhibit was displayed at Commerce Square in May and June. The mural will be installed at Roman later this year.



Featured here are examples of the art produced by the Roman students.

Cahillites Serve the Community

Every year, the Alumni Student Intergenerational Service Team (ASIST) led by Ed Keenan '54 provides a helping hand for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Mass honoring the gifts of persons with disabilities.



Tucker Goshinski '18 and Anthony Torelli '19 assist a guest for the Mass



Jack Vong '18 snaps a selfie with Archbishop Chaput!

CLASS NOTES

1958

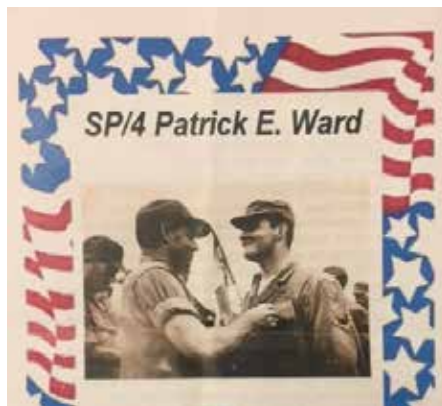
Congratulations to **Bob Barker '58** on his son Eric's successful internet blog that he converted into a published book entitled "Barking up the Wrong Tree." Eric's humorous, practical blog presents science-based answers and expert insight on how to be awesome at life. Over 295,000 people subscribe to his weekly newsletter, and his content is syndicated by Time Magazine, The Week, and Business Insider. He has been featured in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic Monthly, and the Financial Times. Eric is also a sought-after speaker and interview subject. His book is available for purchase on Amazon.com.

1960

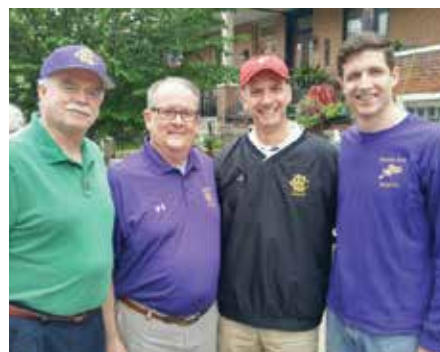
Congratulations to **Speedy Morris '60** on receiving the prestigious Morgan Wootten Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching High School Basketball. This award is given annually by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

1966

On Saturday, May 20th, at 10:00 AM at Taney & Swain Streets in Fairmount, a ceremony took place for the re-naming of Swain Street to Patty Ward Way. In August 1968, **Patrick Ward, '66**, was killed while serving our country during the Vietnam War and was awarded posthumously the Silver Star for Bravery in Combat. Distinguished guests attended the ceremony including City Council President, Darrell Clarke, City Councilmen William Greenlee and David Oh, and many Roman alumni. Every year, Roman's Sports Hall of Fame awards a member of the senior class the scholar-athlete award in honor of Patrick Ward. Patrick's legacy is not only impacting RCHS but now the city of Philadelphia.



Swain Street named after Patrick Ward '66.



(From left to right) Tom Kearney '58, Pat Mundy '75, Steve Paul '83, Steve Paul, Jr '12 represent the Roman Catholic High School Alumni Association at the ceremony.

1969

Congratulations to **Mike Bantom '69**, on being inducted into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame. The induction will take place in Fall of 2017. He will join other Roman greats in the hall: Speedy Morris '60, Marvin Harrison '91 and longtime basketball coach Billy Markward.



Cahillites (left from right) Joe Kiernan '43, Nate Nicholson '18, Mike Bantom '69, Xavier Pina '20, and Jourdan Greene '20 at the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame press conference.

1979

Chris Gibbons '79 continues to have articles published in the Philadelphia Inquirer. His latest work chronicling the WWI heroics of Chaplain Lt. Joseph Wolfe, a Class of 1899 graduate of Roman, was published in the New Year's Day edition of the Inquirer.

1980

Dr. John Beach '80, current RCHS faculty member, continues to organize food donations with his Algebra II classes to provide copious amounts of groceries for the Lazarus House emergency food pantry in North Wildwood. Dr. Beach provided two large donations this year, one during the holiday season and one right before the start of summer.

1987

Congratulations to **Manny Delgado '87**, who was sworn in as Mayor of Moorestown, New Jersey in January. Delgado is the first ever Hispanic Mayor of the city.

1998

Congratulations Mr. Buck!



The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) has recognized **Chris Buck '98** as the Pennsylvania Secondary Educator of the Year. The award ceremony was held in Harrisburg in early May. Chris was chosen from among the thousands of secondary educators who teach in High Schools throughout Pennsylvania. Chris, an English teacher at Roman for over 10 years, was acknowledged for his passionate and progressive approach in the classroom. At Roman, Chris is known as a compassionate, professional, and dedicated educator who genuinely cares about his students.

2001

Congratulations to **Scott Paxson '01** on being inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame this Spring.

2008

Congratulations to **Andrew Jaskel '08** on becoming a member of the Union League of Philadelphia on Wednesday, September 28, 2016.

George Wylesol '08 finished an MFA at the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2016 and has been working as a freelance illustrator and a professor of illustration at Towson University. Some of his freelance clients include the New York Times, Bon Appetit Magazine, The University of Texas, and Bandcamp. His work received recognition from the Society of Illustrators and American Illustration and has been written about in publications such as *It's Nice That*, *Booooo!*, and *Digital Arts Online*. He has recently published his first graphic novel with UK-based publisher Avery Hill.



Artwork done by **George Wylesol '08**.

2009

Devon Cobb '09 enlisted in the U.S. Navy and recently married his college sweetheart. He has been assigned to the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier stationed in the Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. He is currently serving in the Middle East.

Congratulations to **Seamus O'Brien '09** on recently graduating with his Juris Doctorate from George Washington Law School with honors.

The Empire, Summer 2017

Congratulations to **Alek Hughes '09** and his wife Briana on the birth of their son Thomas.



Thomas Hughes, son of Alek '09 and grandson of the Honorable Renee Cardwell Hughes, Board member proudly sports his Roman sweatshirt!

2011

Congratulations to **Anthony Sechuk '11** on graduating from the University of the Sciences with his doctorate in Physical Therapy.

2013

Congratulations to **Nicholas Wnek '13** on being honored as an "Athlete of the Week" for Mercyhurst University in April. Wnek was the captain of the men's crew team and raced in the lightweight 1st varsity eight.

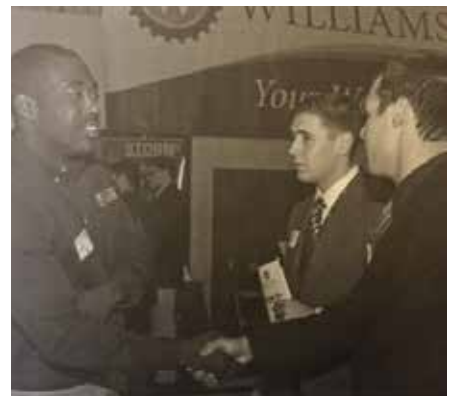
2016

Both **Joseph Wasekanes '16** and **Daniel Killion '16** were featured in photos in "The Williamsonian" the publication for alumni and friends of Williamson College of the Trades. Both Wasekanes and Killion recently completed their freshman year at Williamson.

Congratulations to **Michael Hopkins, '16**, last year's Student Council President, on earning the rank of Eagle Scout this past Fall.



Michael Hopkins '16 earns the rank of Eagle Scout.



Dan Killion '16 featured in Williamson alumni publication.



Joe Wasekanes '16 working hard during his first year at Williamson.

Roman Bids Farewell

This Spring, the Roman Catholic High School community bid farewell to our oldest living alum, **Mr. Stanley Nanczuk, Class of 1935**. Stanley passed away on Monday, March 20th, the Feast of Saint Joseph.

Stanley hailed from the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. He attended Saint Hedwig's elementary school before entering Catholic High in the Fall of 1931. Stanley flourished at Roman, always appreciative of the dedicated teachers and loyal friendships established with fellow Cahillites. He was

elected Class President and continued to represent his class for decades. After graduation, Stanley joined the Armed Services, fighting in one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific – Iwo Jima.

Over the years, Stanley was one of the most active Alumni of our school, attending trustee meetings, class reunions and was a fixture at our Annual Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast.

This past Fall, Stanley paid a special visit to Broad & Vine for a student led celebration of his 100th birthday with a special Mass and tribute. In his quiet, unassuming manner, Stanley embodied all that is good with Roman. His life-long dedication and loyalty to his family, his Church, and Catholic High are nonpareil. While Stanley has gone on to his eternal reward, he has left us a shining legacy – an example of humility, fidelity, and commitment. Rest in Peace, true Son of Cahill!



Thank you, Mr. Kane

After fifteen years as Assistant Principal for Student Services, Mr. Terry Kane has decided to step down from this post after this school year. During his tenure as assistant principal, Mr. Kane developed a rapport with Roman students that was highlighted by a feeling of mutual respect. Tough but fair, Mr. Kane made it his goal to help the students become better people, and to this end, he has positively affected so many Cahillites during his tenure. Although this marks the end of one era, it also marks the beginning of another. Mr. Kane will return to the classroom next year as a member of the Social Studies Department.

On behalf of the Roman Catholic High School community, we extend to Mr. Kane our sincerest gratitude for a job well done.

Father Murphy Celebrates Milestone



Respected RCHS faculty member Father Murphy celebrated his 70th anniversary of his ordination with John Ginty '81, Dan Drew '50, Lou Sposato '68, and C. Wayne Booker '63.



Father Murphy returned to Broad & Vine to bless a new language lab classroom named in his honor.



IN MEMORIAM

(as of June 16, 2017)

Please remember and keep in your prayers our brothers and family members who have been called from this world to eternal life.



Alumni

Joseph M. Donohoe
Hector DiGiacomo '35
Stanley Nanczuk '35
John A. Merriman '42
Robert Glenn '44
Eugene Leahy '45
Edward King '48
Lawrence Kelly '49
Thomas Kelly '49
Joseph Campbell '50
John J. Dolan '50
John McGee '50
John Allen '52
Brother Thomas Chadwick F.S.C. '52
James Loughran '52
Ralph Miller '53
Stephen J. Traitz '54
Robert Dawson '57
Harry Fair '58
John Kenney '58

George Britner '60
John Conway '60
James McFarlane '64
Joseph Montgomery '64
Frank Sliker '64
Henry Kern '65
Francis Beck '68
John Iacobacci '68
John Thomas '69
John P. Thomas '69
William Beckman '72
John Salomone '72
Leonard Roberts '74
James Norris '80
Victor Panieczko '88
James Binns Jr. '98
Mike O'Leary '00
Kevin Breen '07
Michael Mooney '07

Family & Friends

Ralph Archbold father of Kenneth Archbold '94
Rita Ann Bianculli mother of Edward Bianculli '10
Rolena Boone Harrington daughter of Rodney Wilson, longtime maintenance worker
Edward Clinton former faculty member and son of Edward Clinton Sr. '49
John Doherty grandfather of John Doherty '11, Patrick Doherty '14, and Joseph Doherty '17
Everett Ellis father of Ahzayah Lunsford-Ellis '20
Elvira Farinella mother of faculty member Joseph Farinella
Brian Finn father of Brian Finn '17
Bonnie Ann Guidice wife of Tom Guidice '69
Mary Ann Mangano wife of Joseph C Mangano '57, mother of Joseph L. Mangano '84, grandmother of Joseph L Mangano '14
Shirley Ochman wife of Joseph Ochman '49
Florence O'Neill mother of former Disciplinarian and Principal Robert O'Neill
Mary Jane Price mother of George '78, David '79, Daniel '82, and Gregory '87
Rosemary Reilly grandmother of Daniel DiBerardinis '05
Sister Margaret Songster longtime staff member
Winifred (Bischoff) Sontag wife of Albert Sontag '49 mother of Andy '73 Bill '76 Jim '80, sister of David Bischoff '69
Rev. Edward Storck, former faculty member
Sue White wife of John O. White '43
Stanley Zawislak father of Stephen Zawislak '77

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are several opportunities available at Roman Catholic to memorialize a loved one or family member. The following items are available and can be inscribed with a particular dedication name.



Chapel Chair
(only 2 remaining) \$250



Classroom Crucifix
(only 5 remaining) \$350
We have several crucifixes which are original to the building when Roman opened 127 years ago. These once beautiful crucifixes are now showing their age and are in dire need of expert restoration.



Paintings
We recently acquired several major works of religious art from Saint Charles Seminary. These original oil paintings are now hanging in the corridors of Roman and reflect the Holy Family, Mary, and various saints. Memorial sponsorships are available, beginning at \$1,000. For more information, please contact Father Bongard 215.627.1270 or jbongard@romancatholicshs.com





Roman Catholic High School
301 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

2017 “Day at the Bay”

Come join us down the shore on Saturday, August 5, 2017 at Keenan's in North Wildwood, NJ 2:00-6:00 PM. Tickets include a hot buffet & soft drinks. \$1.00 Domestic Bottles, \$2.00 Wine, \$3.00 Mixed Drinks. Entertainment inside and out!

Tickets are \$35 in Advance & \$40 at the Door!
Visit RomanCatholicHS.com/alumni to register



Proceeds from
Day at the Bay benefit
River Field



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Alumni Association](https://www.facebook.com/RomanCatholicHSAlumni)



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